

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## NR2J—SK



David G. Bargovic, 73, passed away peacefully surrounded by love and comfort on Friday September 6th, 2019. Born in Ballston Spa on May 20th, 1946, he was the son of Evalina and Joseph Bargovic.

David served in the US Coast Guard and was proudly stationed at the Loran Monitor Station in Keflavik Iceland. There he utilized his love of radio communication and his HAM Radio expertise to serve his country. After his military service he worked for the Xerox Corporation, celebrating 20 years of service before retiring. In his retirement he pursued his passion for Real Estate obtaining his Realtor licensure.

David was a true people person who would happily strike up conversation with anyone and everyone. Dave loved to hear a good story almost as much as he loved to tell one. He was a warm, energetic personality who made those around him feel welcome and special. He made time for those he loved by lending his craftsman skills and wide array of practical handyman knowledge.

As a self-described DIYer, Dave found great joy in all things home improvement and took great pride at a job done right, the first time. He built his own home in the early 70's and was continually making alterations and enhancements. Using his capable hands and a multitude of cherished tools he was happiest when he was building, wiring and repairing just about anything.

Dave was a dedicated life member of Eagle-Matt Lee volunteer fire department, celebrating his 54th year of service in 2019. Alongside his brother and fellow volunteer Jay, he actively participated in drills and calls despite his status as an “Old Timer”. He enjoyed marching each year in Ballston Spa’s Memorial Day parade where he would proudly carry the axe and at the Holiday Parade where he enthusiastically handed out candy to spectators.

As a licensed HAM Radio operator for over 55 years he participated in multiple radio clubs as NR2J and would excitedly share his affection all things radio, communications and call signs. He made many great friends and embarked on innumerable adventures, with his favorite travel buddy Bob Raffaele, seeking out radio treasure at HAMfests in the area. He was a wheeler and dealer who reveled in negotiating a great deal for the things he bought at the fests. He was a member of Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association for 45 years, American Radio Relay League (AARL) for over 50 and Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) for 25 years.

David is survived by his adoring daughters, Erika Bargovic and Danielle Bargovic, his brother Jay Bargovic and his wife Sue; his loving companion of 15 years Sharon McCauley-Castellano and their beloved “circus-dog” and constant companion Buddy; Shari’s children Jim McCauley, Tom McCauley, Seana Daniels, and Hollie McCauley-King and her children, Bailey, Maddie and Jake. Dave also leaves his dear friends Bob and Betty Raffaele.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Wednesday, September 11th from 4pm to 7pm at Armer Funeral Home, Inc., 39 East High Street, Ballston Spa. A Firematic Service will be held at 6pm. Funeral services will be held 9:30am Thursday, September 12th at St. Mary’s Church, Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa where a mass of Christian burial will be celebrated. Burial with military honors will follow at the Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Duell Road, Schuylerville

# NR2J DE K2DLL 73



# SCARA Hamfest 2019

## The 34th annual SCARA hamfest

Sunday Sept 8 was a great day, Sunny and no rain. A perfect prescription for a hamfest day..

This year the attendance was the equal of last year. (390 this year, and 393 last year).

We spent a little more money this year on the bucket prizes, so the net profit was down a little from last year, but still we all had fun.

Peter W2BEW who has been the spark plug the last 4 years has announced his retirement from the organizational side of the event, and a group of club members has formed a committee to try to come up to his level of success for the 35 th next year, with Peter mentoring them. There will be future announcements on the committee's activities—stay tuned.



The 17<sup>th</sup> annual [Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon](#) is scheduled for **Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**.

We need a few radio operators and other support folks to ensure a successful event. I've attached the information about the event but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We will be working with a couple of the area Amateur Radio clubs and the local CERT volunteers to help staff the event.

Please sign up directly via ARES Connect at: <https://arrrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eny/>  
Learn more about the **Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon** by visiting their website at: <http://www.mohawktowpath.org/duathlon/>

Area map: <http://goo.gl/maps/VaiXN>

Thanks  
Fred - W2EMS  
505-3733

### [Thanks for renewing your membership:](#)

K2IRK, K2LK, KA2CCH, KA2TUC, KB2ADF, KC2NXC, KD2DQQ, KD2DXO, KD2JMM, KD2OVI, KD2PZY, KD2QMM, KWE3373, N2MBX, N2OWA, N2YQT, N2ZHS, N7SO, N8OBM, NC2P, NE2K, W2ALL, W2EMS, W2MLB, W2MRD, W2MVB, W5BN, WA2WAP

Welcome New Members  
K2IRK, KA2CCH, KD2DQQ, KD2QMM, N2YQT, WA2WAP

### [2019 New York QSO Party](#)

This year annual NYS QSO Party will be on October 19, 2109. It starts at 10 AM and runs for 12 hours. The rules are at [http://nyqp.org/NYQP\\_Rules.pdf](http://nyqp.org/NYQP_Rules.pdf)

It's a fun event. Essentially you are trying to contact all the counties in NYS. Participation is open to all the world, but only contacts with hams in NYS counties count for points.

I'm toying with the idea of opening my shack in Ballston Spa to fellow club members to operate the event. It would be an opportunity to socialize, and for the new hams, and those who have not yet enjoyed HF operation, it would be a learning experience. If enough of you want to band together, we might prevail on the club licensee to let us use the club call. Please let me know if there is any interest. You can contact me at [KG2H@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG2H@ARRL.NET)

## To all Tower owners in the Amateur Radio Community - a must read! By Mark Pride, K1RX

Many old timers in the hobby that own a tower, perhaps in the air for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years, need to take this article seriously as it could provide life saving information to you and your ground crew. This is a cautionary article for all that have a tower no matter how long its been the air. What occurred at a NH amateur station recently provides a lesson for all of us tower owners. Although the article speaks to a Rohn 25 guyed tower product, it could be prove helpful to others.

### K1JGA and K1EEE tower tragedy

A crew of amateurs gathered at the home of K1EEE to take down two 40 ft. Rohn 25 towers. The details of the tower which collapsed and its failure is provided below. It was a very unfortunate accident which took the life of Joe G. Areyzaga, K1JGA. The owner of the tower, K1EEE suffered multiple injuries but did survive. We all in the amateur radio community extend our prayers and condolences to the families affected by this tragic event.

### Tower Description

One of two forty foot (40 ft.) Rohn 25 towers, with one set of guys at the 35 ft level was to be taken down. The base was the BPH 25 hinge plate on a concrete pad of unknown depth. This used tower had only been up 3 years.

NOTE: Following the accident, the owner learned one leg of the hinge plate had been previously repaired but the material used was not galvanized.

With the reasonable expectation the tower would support itself to 40 ft, the guy wires were disconnected from the anchors and the top section was to be removed. The top section to be removed had a rotor shelf and one torque assembly mounted at the 35 ft. level along with the three guy wires. The gin pole had not been raised at that point. The antenna, mast and rotor were previously removed.

### Lesson Learned

At the time of the initial install, the tower was self supported to 40 ft until the first set of guys were attached per Rohn specifications. That may have been the case *then*, but after many years of exposure to the elements, one can no longer expect the same!

Prior to the start of the tower take down, the tower was thoroughly inspected and found to be in acceptable condition. The base was dry and free of any water. No obvious problems were found.

The general reason for this tower collapse was corrosion at the junction of the hinged base short legs (one leg previously repaired and welded as noted above) and the bottom of the lowest Rohn 25 section occurred primarily from the outside and some inside as well and thus weakened the structure. The first point of failure was the repaired and non-galvanized short leg of the hinge plate. When the guys were removed from their anchor points (necessary to remove the top section), the tower was free standing with the two climbers at 35 ft. It's clear that the tower deflection from the vertical was extreme enough to make the overturning force at the base (the bending moment) great enough to cause base failure.

The proper installation of the hinge bracket (BPH 25) requires mounting it on a flat concrete surface, secured with bolts placed in the concrete, surrounded by a beveled edge for water run off. Normally, all of the hardware associated with the hinge plate are galvanized and able to withstand the wear and tear of Mother nature. However this base was slightly recessed where the plate sat and there were some gaps under the plate. This created the opportunity for water or ground contaminants to collect. It is presumed the previously repaired short stubby leg of the bracket began to corrode while sitting in water. Years of this kind of exposure slowly weakened the metal. Subsequent movement by climbers at the top of the unguyed tower led to breakage at the base.

NOTE: Rohn towers are very high quality and generally last many, many years with proper installation and maintenance. It is a very popular tower in the amateur radio community. And where tower sections join, they typically show little wear as water drainage occurs easily and there is a limited chance for collecting contaminants and held for long periods of time. Or where tower materials come in contact with the earth, the normal galvanizing process is more than adequate for a long lifetime. But what is noted here is areas that are in contact with the ground or areas such as the repaired leg of the bracket that can accumulate harmful materials and therefore become a danger over time. Clearly there are areas on a tower that are difficult to inspect however, the Rohn design usually lends itself to high levels of confidence that these blind areas are within acceptable standards if installed per the manufacturers specifications.

#### JGA Safety Guy Technique for Tower Take Downs in honor Joseph G. Areyzaga, K1JGA (SK)

When dealing with unknown tower installations that require removal, it is absolutely critical to err on the side of extreme caution. The technique described below is one approach and a simple one to help safe guard all involved.

A suggested safety procedure that should be applied during any tower take down of this type is attaching a set of additional guy wires at either the 10 or 20 ft. level prior to any work on the tower. By applying a set of guys near the base, further stabilization of the tower base can be achieved. Using this added set of guy wires reduce stress on the legs (twisting, flexing, bending) and prevent breakage at the very bottom of the section just above the concrete surface or surrounding areas. Then what would remain after the tower is taken down to the Safety Guy set becomes very manageable (10 or 20 ft. to be lowered to the ground).

And in honor of our friend and now silent key, Joe, K1JGA, I am naming this important safety procedure the "JGA Safety Guy Technique" with the hopes all of us will not forget Joe but more importantly, keep us all safe while our old towers are taken down. In particular, towers that have been up for our entire ham career and its maintenance history may be questionable require special attention. Of course if the base shows significant deterioration, corrosion and breakage, the tower should NOT be climbed! It should be removed by other means (cut down if the landing area is open and clear or by crane or similar).

The suggested collection of material that comprises the JGA Safety Guy Technique include:

Three (3) lengths of unbroken or spliced guy wire (3/16 inch EHS or larger) longer than the lowest guy to be sure it is long enough (DO NOT USE ROPE!);



Guy Grips for each end of the guy wire;

A come along at each guy anchor point for proper tensioning and;

A reliable heavy duty attachment device to connect to the existing anchor.

The attachment to the guy anchors should be done in a way that does not interfere with the existing guy anchor assembly (turnbuckles, etc.). If the JGA Safety Guy kit is to be used in multiple tower take downs of varying heights, use of the Guy Grips will allow full flexibility of locating the attach points where they are needed, without cutting cable. Just make the cable length longer than you might need to give you enough head room. **One further consideration:** Rather than just use this technique near the ground, consider always using it no less than 10 ft. below where you may be working I.E. erecting or dismantling a tower, place the JGA kit 10 ft. below the location you are either installing or removing the next section. Therefore, the guy lengths need to be approximately the same length as the longest guy (upper guy). This will assure maximum safety. With the guy grips, it is easy to relocate them, as you adjust the length of the temporary guy at each point on the tower.

As part of your annual maintenance plan, include keeping the base free of debris, dirt, trees, plants etc. to protect this area from any long term damage. Consider making one of these JGA Safety Guy kits for your club to be used as necessary.

Best to use the JGA Safety Guy Technique and find the tower base was just fine, than not use it and suffer a similar situation or worse! **Stay safe!**

## [FCC Proposes Fining New York Radio Amateur \\$17,000 for Deliberate Interference](#) via ARRL

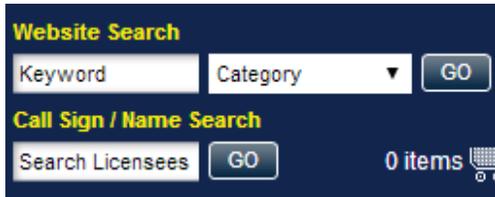
A New York Radio Amateur — Harold Guretzky, K6DPZ, of Richmond Hill — is facing a \$17,000 fine imposed by the FCC. Guretzky was issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on October 3 for causing intentional interference on a local repeater and preventing other radio amateurs from using it.

The NAL recounted numerous complaints alleging that Guretzky was deliberately interfering with a repeater in Glen Oaks, New York. In June of 2017, the FCC issued a Warning Letter to Guretzky, advising him of the nature of the allegations against him and directing him to stop using the repeater going forward. Nonetheless, additional complaints were filed. In April 2018, agents from the FCC New York Enforcement Bureau office drove to Richmond Hill to investigate. The agent monitored the VHF repeater's input and output frequencies and, after observing deliberate interference to other stations, used direction-finding techniques to identify the source of the transmission as Guretzky's station.

The FCC said Guretzky "apparently willfully violated" Section 333 of the Communications Act and Section 97.101(d) of the FCC's Amateur Service Rules, demonstrating "a deliberate disregard for the Commission's authority and the very spirit of the Amateur Radio Service by continuing to interfere with the local repeater" despite having been warned.



Have you checked the expiration date on your license? It's very easy to do. One way to do it is to go to [WWW.ARRL.ORG](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG), and just fill in your call sign in the search box on their home page. You do not need to be a member of ARRL to use this service.



K2DLL repeater system:

Corinth NY  
147.000 MHz +600KHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode  
448.225 MHz -5.00 MHz 91.5 CTCSS encode/decode

Providence NY  
147.240 MHz +600 Hz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode.  
147.360 MHz +600 Hz (add 91.5 Hz CTCSS to connect to the NYS Network

Sacandaga Reservoir  
147.03 MHz +600 KHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode

Middleburgh NY  
448.925 PL 107.2 WA2TTP-R Steve's Repeater is linked to ours via UHF



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Please be sure to visit our webpage for any late breaking news or newsletter archives.

[WWW.K2DLL.ORG](http://WWW.K2DLL.ORG)

Got News or information you would like to get published? How about your own projects or other things you think would be of interest to Club Members? How about (GASP), a letter to the editor? Contact us at our email address :

[SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com](mailto:SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com)

### Upcoming program note

We are looking for input from the membership as to what YOU would like to hear. Program suggestions are always welcome. Please let any of the Board Members know of you ideas.

Thanks